



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,343	04/25/2005	Helen Gillian Aanatharaman	112701-596	7148
29157	7590	08/21/2008		
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP			EXAMINER	
P.O. Box 1135			STULII, VERA	
CHICAGO, IL 60690			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1794	
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		08/21/2008	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATENTS@BELLBOYD.COM

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/527,343	Applicant(s) ANANTHARAMAN ET AL.
	Examiner VERA STULII	Art Unit 1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/06/05. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101 and § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 5 and 8 provide for the "use" of soluble fibers and soluble fibres compositions, but, since the claims do not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a "use" without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a "use", without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Stillman (US 6,248,390). Hoeks (WO 97/04035) is cited as evidence as discussed below.

In regard to claim 1, Stillman discloses a shelf-stable, clear and neutral pH water composition comprising demineralized water and soluble fibres that comprise oligosaccharides with a chain length of about 2 to 20. In particular, Stillman discloses "A shelf stable, ready to use, essentially tasteless and odorless water-like fluid for humans/animals comprised of safe water and a significant quantity of one or more water-soluble dietary fibers" (Abstract). Stillman further discloses that either natural water (e.g. mineral water) or purified (demineralized) water can be used, and that the base water should be low in dissolved salts (Col. 5 lines 10-15). Regarding claim 2 and "oligosaccharides with a chain length of about 2 to 20" recitation in claim1, Stillman discloses purified inulins (fructo-oligosaccharides), low molecular weight grades of inulin and Frutafit® (Col. 5 lines 20-21; Col. 6 lines 7-10; Col. 12 line 45). As evidenced by Hoeks (WO 97/04035), Frutafit® is a "designation of commercially available inulin from chicory having an average DP of approximately 10 monosaccharide units" (page 5 Example 4).

In regard to claim 3, Stillman discloses the amount of fibres is 0.1-10% (by weight).

In regard to claims 4 and 5, Stillman discloses that “[t]he slight sweetness of the inulin makes the water especially palatable” (Col. 12 lines 46-48) and the fact that “some individuals can detect a slightly different “mouth feel” because of the slight viscosity increase resulting from the soluble fibers” (Col. 11 lines 51-53). Regarding bitterness, softness, astringency, smoothness and metallic-ness recitations in claim 4, it is noted that although the references do not specifically disclose every possible quantification or characteristic of its product, such as modified bitterness, softness, astringency, smoothness and metallic-ness , these characteristics would have been expected to be as claimed absent any clear and convincing evidence and/or arguments to the contrary. The reference discloses the same starting materials and methods as instantly (both broadly and more specifically) claimed, and thus one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the modified bitterness, softness, astringency, smoothness and metallic-ness, among many other characteristics of the product obtained by the referenced method, would have been an inherent result of the process disclosed therein. The Patent Office does not possess the facilities to make and test the referenced method and product obtained by such method, and as a reasonable reading of the teachings of the reference has been applied to establish the case of anticipation, the burden thus shifts to applicant to demonstrate otherwise.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stillman (US 6,248,390).

Stillman is taken as cited above. Stillman further discloses the use of maltodextrins prepared by controlled hydrolysis of corn or potato starches (Col. 11 lines 37-39). In regard to the "acidic pH" recitation in claim 6, Stillman discloses that a water based product can provide additional flavor such as lime or lemon flavor which can enhance palatability of the product (Col. 11 lines 64-67), and the fact that the fiber water may be reconstituted with frozen lemonade to produce lemonade (that was well known in the art to have an acidic pH) (Abstract). Stillman does not disclose the molecular weight of maltodextrin. However, Stillman discloses water-like viscosity of the final product. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to choose maltodextrin with a molecular weight that produces a desired viscosity in the final product. Therefore, the molecular weight of the maltodextrin is seen to have been an obvious result effective variable.

In regard to claim 7, Stillman discloses fruit extracts (lemonade/orange juice frozen concentrates) (Abstract).

In regard to claim 8, Stillman discloses multiple health benefits of fiber-water. Stillman discloses that "[t]he soluble fiber(s) used are proven to moderate the postprandial rise in blood glucose (diabetes), address weight loss (obesity), lower serum cholesterol level (cardiovascular/heart), and address constipation and bowel regularity (colon cancer)" (Abstract).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VERA STULII whose telephone number is (571)272-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am-3:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on (571) 272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steve Weinstein/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

VS